

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
WHIP FA

Program: WHIP	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: WHIP FA		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the restoration, development or enhancement of declining or important native wildlife habitats, such as brush, grass, forbs, or waterways?	10 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of wildlife habitat for at-risk species which can include candidate species and State listed threatened and endangered species, such as habitat for sage grouse?	10 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of wildlife habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the reduction of invasive species on wildlife habitats, such as trees, brush, or aquatic plant species?	10 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of declining or important aquatic wildlife species' habitats such as stream habitat improvement, removal of impairments on waterways, etc?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
PRIORITY 1	
1. Has a RMS conservation farm plan been completed on the entire parcel of property being offered under the application prior to October 1, 2007?	20 Point(s)

2. Has a progressive conservation farm plan been completed on the entire parcel of property being offered under the application prior to October 1, 2007?	20 Point(s)
3. Has the applicant successfully completed all previous contracts offered? (Answer YES if applicant has never had a contract cancelled, terminated, or is actively applying (on schedule) any existing contracts not yet completed.)	20 Point(s)
4. Do all the forested acres in this application contain a basal area of less than 50 square feet or are all the forested acres going to be thinned to a basal area of less than 50 square feet during the life of the proposed contract?	20 Point(s)
5. Does the management of the land identified in this application encourage the sustainability of a natural predator /prey balance which promotes diverse wildlife habitat and species richness typically found in South Carolina?	20 Point(s)
6. Does this application contain practices that address the control or eradication of invasive plant species as identified on the list of "Major Invasive Species of Concern in South Carolina" found on the EFOTG, Section I, General Resources, Section C, Reference List?	20 Point(s)
PRIORITY 2	
7. Does this application contain at least one (1) practice that directly benefits threatened and endangered or at-risk wildlife species (plant or animal) as identified by NRCS, South Carolina DNR, the US Fish and Wildlife Service or NOAA Fisheries?	10 Point(s)
8. Does this application contain practices that exclude cattle or other livestock from environmentally sensitive areas, such as; wetlands, streams and riparian stream buffers, etc.?(Mark no if no livestock are present)	10 Point(s)

9. Does the SC Wildlife Habitat Index for this application reflect a habitat net effect benefit of greater than .50? (Planned index value – Existing index value)	10 Point(s)
10. Does the SC Wildlife Habitat Index for this application reflect a habitat net effect benefit between .25 - .50? (Planned index value – Existing index value)	5 Point(s)
11. Does the SC Wildlife Habitat Index for this application reflect a habitat net effect benefit between .01 - .24? (Planned index value – Existing index value)	2 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does this application contain at least one (1) conservation practice that directly benefits federally listed threatened and endangered fish, wildlife or plant species? (Must be verified by an NRCS, DNR, NOAA or USFWS biologist.)	70 Point(s)
2. Will this application improve quail or other at-risk species habitat by promoting early successional habitat through the application of rotational disking, and/or planting native warm season grasses, and/or the application of <u>prescribed burning</u> ?	60 Point(s)
3. Are all of the forested pine acres in this application at or planned to be at a basal area of less than 50 square feet, includes prescribed burning on a 2 -3 year rotation, and contains managed forest openings .5 to 2 acres in size <u>spaced less than 500 feet apart</u> ?	50 Point(s)
4. Does this application address the installation of conservation practices that provide a buffer at least 50 feet wide immediately adjacent to a wetland, water body, stream or other sensitive <u>areas</u> ?	40 Point(s)
5. Does this application include the installation of conservation practices that enhance wildlife habitat on 2 or more land types (cropland, forestland, pastureland, hayland, wildlife, etc)?	30 Point(s)
6. Does this application include the installation of 4 or more cost shared conservation practices that enhance wildlife habitat?	20 Point(s)

